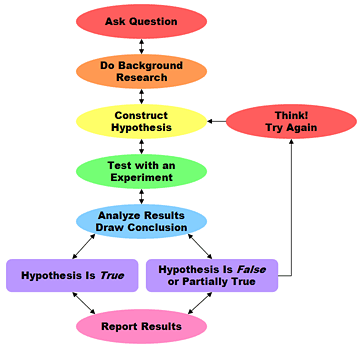
**Scientific Method Notes**

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| **Steps of the Scientific Method** |
| **Ask a Question:** The scientific method starts when you ask a question about something that you observe: How, What, When, Who, Which, Why, or Where?  And, in order for the scientific method to answer the question it must be about something that you can measure, preferably with a number. |
| **Do Background Research:** Rather than starting from scratch in putting together a plan for answering your question. |
| **Construct a Hypothesis:** A hypothesis is an educated guess about how things work:"If \_\_\_\_\_*[I do this]* \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_*[this]*\_\_\_\_\_ will happen."  You must state your hypothesis in a way that you can easily measure, and of course, your hypothesis should be constructed in a way to help you answer your original question. |
| **Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment:** Your experiment tests whether your hypothesis is true or false. It is important for your experiment to be a fair test. You conduct a fair test by making sure that you change only one factor at a time while keeping all other conditions the same.  You should also repeat your experiments several times to make sure that the first results weren't just an accident. |
| **Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion:** Once your experiment is complete, you collect your measurements and analyze them to see if your hypothesis is true or false. |
| **Communicate Your Results:** Communicate your results to others in a final report. Provide several sentences in your report. |